THE SWORD INTERVAL

BY BEN FLEUTER

10 YEARS AGO...

What are you doing to her?!

O-orders from the Chairman! We're to induce a coma!

You stay away from her!
Don't you touch her!

You haven't disappointed me yet, Alexandra.
Don't start now.

This isn't want we agreed to Gold! You said we'd *save* the new Harbinger! Not orphan her and make her a vegetable!
It was unfortunate about the police officers, but we had to remove any complicating factors. As for the girl's sedation, it would be painless, I assure you.

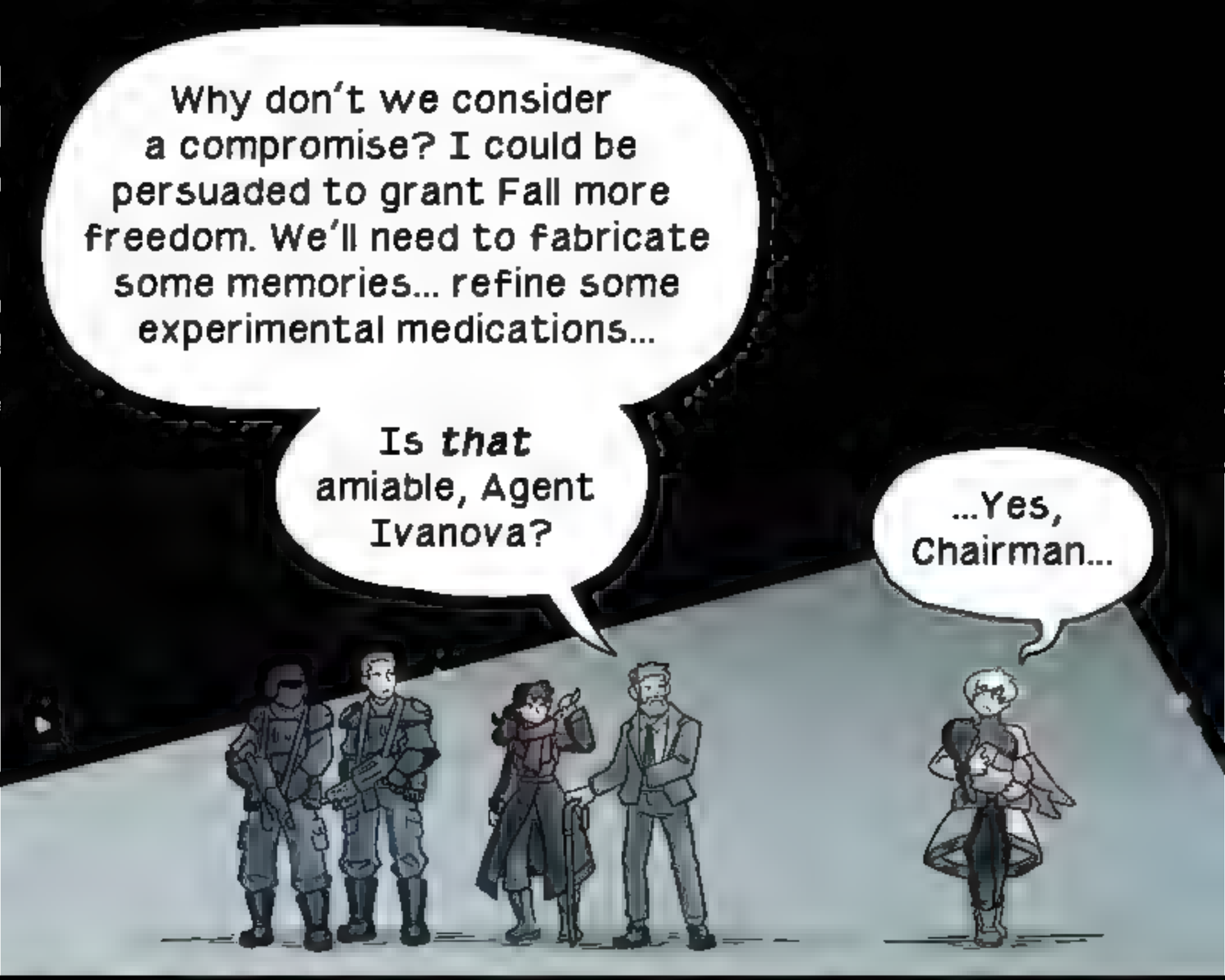
There's nothing painless about this! You had my friends murdered for no reason!

If you walk out that door, they truly will have died for nothing.
All of your work, your sacrifice, it will all have been in vain.

What?
What do you plan on doing after you leave? Will you give young Barros the same life you and your brother had? Running. Starving. Hunted. What sort of life is that?
Even if you do hide from us, the Harbinger will give in to her nature in time. What then?

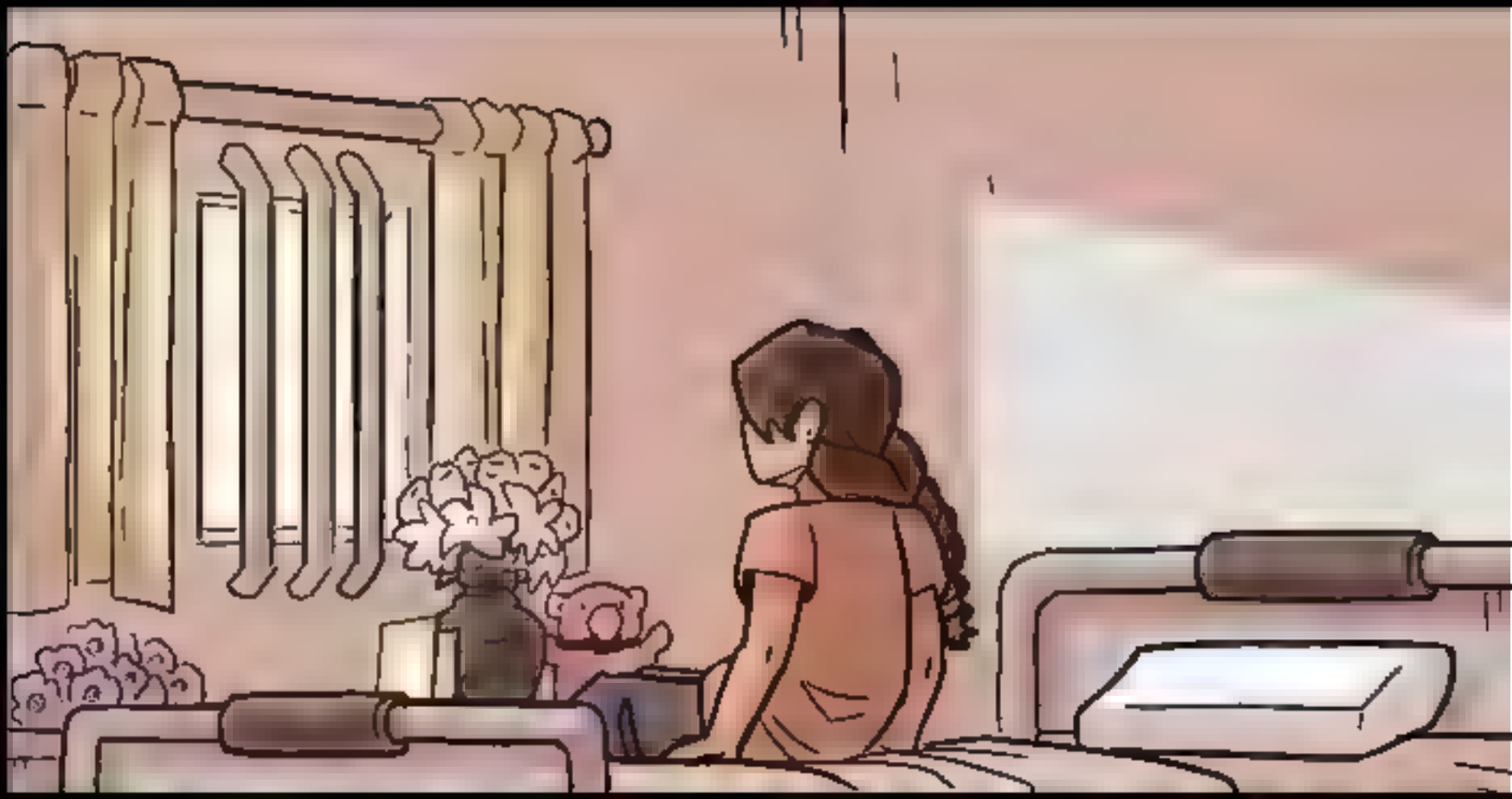
Do you have what it takes to end her yourself?

No.
You're still that little girl we fished out of the ruins.


Why don't we consider a compromise? I could be persuaded to grant Fall more freedom. We'll need to fabricate some memories... refine some experimental medications...
Is *that* amiable, Agent Ivanova?
...Yes, Chairman...

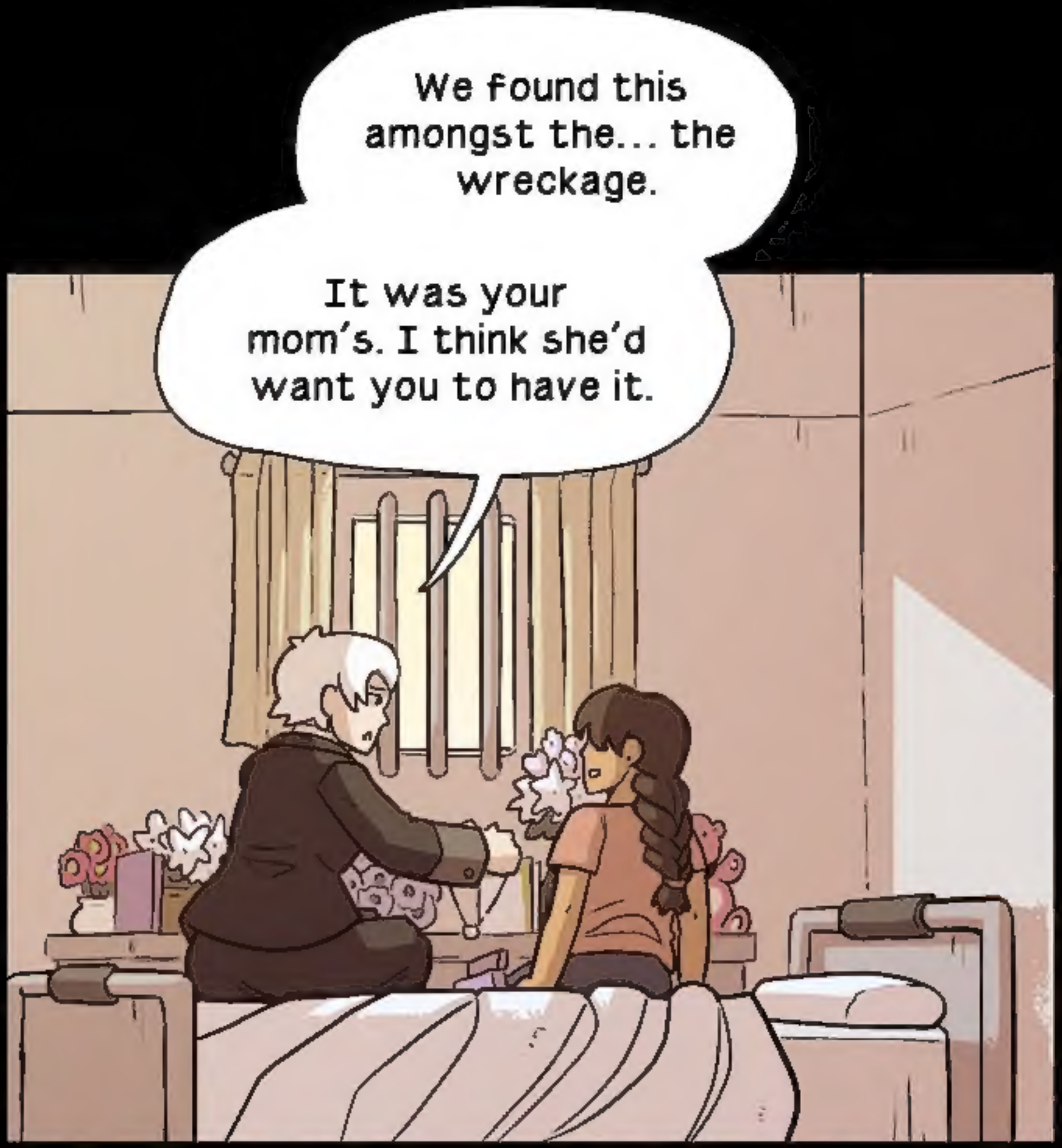
Good. Then I'll forget this outburst ever happened.
Haha. I'm actually curious what will become of young Barros.

Oh, and to that end, I have a task for you.



Oh...
Al...
I heard Mom and Dad's funeral was today. Mine... mine too.
But there weren't really any bodies to bury.

Did you get to go?
Was it a good service, Alex?


We found this amongst the... the wreckage.
It was your mom's. I think she'd want you to have it.

I don't remember Mom wearing this.
No, no. It was hers...

Trust me...

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